Economic Rehabilitation of the Family of Child Labour

1394. SHRI S.S. AHLUWALIA: Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have formulated action plan for economic rehabilitation of the family of child labour and strieter enforcement of child labour laws in the country.

(b) if so, what are the details thereof; and

(c) how many such families have so far been economically rehabilitated in the country particularly in Bihar?

THE MINISTER OF LABOUR (SHRI P.A. SANGMA): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. A National Authority for Elimination of Child Labour (NAECL) has been constituted under the Chairmanship of Union Labour Minister. The NAECL has adopted a Plan of Action called the "Identification, Release and Rehabilitation of Child Labour" with a view to ensure systematic action to progressively eliminate child labour. Briefly, it calls for a convergence of services and schemes of Central and State Governments at the implementing level—the District—to effectively bandle the identification and rehabilitation of child labour and stricter enforcement of relevant laws. It is also calls for rehabilitation of the families of child labour in all poverty alleviation programmes by giving such families priority in rendering necessary assistance.

(c) No separate assessment has been made on the economic rehabilitation of the families with child labour.

Storage capacity of Foodgrains in Punjab

1395. SHRI IQBAL SINGH: Will the Minister of FOOD be pleased to state:

(a) the total storage capacity of foodgrains of each godown in Punjab;

(b) whether the capacity of present godowns is sufficient to meet the requirement;

(c) if not, the reasons therefor;

(d) the steps taken or proposed to be taken in this regard; and

(e) the estimated quantity of foodgrains damaged due to non-availability of godowns in Punjab during the last two years?

THE MINISTER OF FOOD (SHRI AJIT SINGH): (a) The covered and CAP storage capacity of godowns of FCI (owned & hired) in Punjab is about 86.90 lakh tonnes as on 1.7.1995. A statement showing capacity of each godown separately in the State of Punjab is at Annexure [*See* Appendix 174, Annexure No. 43]

(b) and (c) With reference to the volume of procurement by the FCI in Punjab the present capacity is considered sufficient. However, the capacity is proving to be inadequate on account of limited availability of wagon for movement of these stocks outside Punjab where it is issued under PDS and other Govt. Schemes. On an average, there is a minimum negative gap of about 3-4 million tonnes between the total quantity procured in Punjab by all agencies and the total stocks moved out on Government account every year which creates strain on the total storage capacity available with FCI as well as other agencies involved in procurement of foodgrains on central account.

(d) The following steps are being taken:—

(i) enhance the storage charges to increase the availability of hired godowns;

(ii) to share the vacant capacity of the other State Agencies;

(iii) FCI's Own CAP capacity is being increased to the extent available in its existing godowns;

(iv) encourge private parties to construct godowns and plinths at enhanced rates and guaranteed utilisattion.

(e) No damage to the stock has been reported due to no-availability of godowns during the last two years.